
**Select Committee on
Environmental Health**

HB 3345

Brief Description: Regarding inspection intervals for properly functioning on-site sewage disposal systems.

Sponsors: Representative Linville.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Modifies the existing frequency of inspections for on-site sewage disposal systems currently found in the State Board of Health rules.

Hearing Date: 2/5/08

Staff: Brad Avey (786-7289).

Background:

The Department of Health (DOH) protects public health by promoting the safe treatment and disposal of domestic and other non-industrial wastewater in areas of Washington not served by municipal sewage treatment works. Rules and standards have been adopted to prevent, control, and abate health hazards and nuisances related to the disposal of wastes, including on-site sewage disposal systems. The DOH regulates the location, design, installation, operation, maintenance, and monitoring of on-site sewage disposal systems.

The DOH develops standards and guidance to assist local health officers in permitting different types of sewage treatment and distribution technologies. The State Board of Health (SBOH) and the DOH develop rules for regulation of on-site sewage disposal systems.

Summary of Bill:

House Bill 3345 affirms that an on-site sewage disposal system owner is responsible for operating, monitoring, and maintaining the owner's on-site sewage disposal system to minimize the risk of failure. This includes inspecting the on-site sewage disposal system and ensuring a

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complete evaluation of the on-site sewage disposal system components and property as necessary to determine functionality, maintenance needs, compliance with regulations, and any permits.

The bill modifies the existing frequency of inspections for on-site sewage disposal systems currently found in the SBOH rules from:

- every three years up to a maximum of seven years for standard gravity systems; and
- every year up to a maximum of three years for other systems of higher complexity.

The bill provides for longer inspection intervals if the system is maintained and continues to function properly. The inspection interval may increase by one year for gravity systems and by six months for other systems if the system is functioning properly at the time of inspection.

If the system, on inspection, is found to be functioning improperly, the inspection interval decreases by one year for gravity systems and by six months for other systems.

Inspections may not be required more frequently than annually for gravity systems and every six months for other systems, except to resolve performance problems.

If an inspection does not occur at least once within the three year interval between June 2009 and June 2012 for gravity systems, the inspection frequency will start at one year if once the system is inspected, it is found to be functioning improperly.

If an inspection does not occur at least once between June 2009 and June 2010 for other systems, the inspection frequency will start at six months if once the system is inspected, it is found to be functioning improperly.

The DOH must revise the on-site sewage disposal system rules in accordance with the requirements of the bill.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on February 4, 2008.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.